

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20, 22-42 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Claims 24-42 have been added. Claims 1-19 have been cancelled in prior amendments.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090 A1 to Muir *et al.* (“Muir”) and U.S. Patent Application No. 6,638,165 B2 to Uchiyama *et al.* to (“Uchiyama”). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

The general subject matter of dependent claim 21 has now been added to independent claim 20

The “Diffusion Sheet” of Independent Claims 20, 24, 28, and 33

All of the independent claims now call for a specific arrangement of “the front display device.” In particular, each independent claim requires that the diffusion layer is disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding layer. The diffusion layer is for the purpose of diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate so as to equalize the light that illuminates the liquid crystal panel.

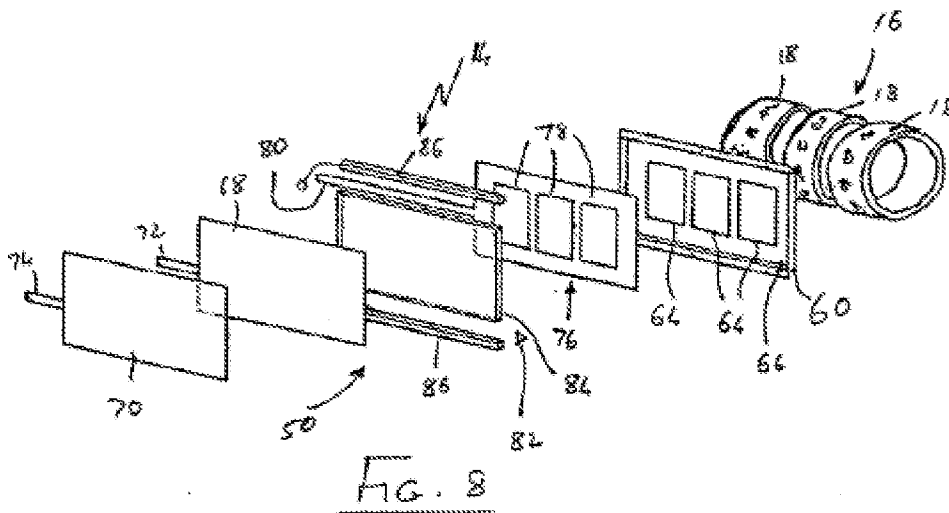
The prior art fails to teach such a “diffusion sheet” as explained below.

Muir's Display is Much Different From the Claimed "Front Display Device"

To find the claimed structure in the previously presented claims, the rejection has focused on FIG. 8 of Muir, which is reproduced below.

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In Muir's FIG. 8 (moving from left to right), the touch screen 70 overlays the glass panel LCD monitor 68. Directly behind the glass panel LCD monitor 68 is the backlighting panel 84, which receives light from the top and bottom illumination elements 86. A shutter device 76 is located directly behind the backlighting panel 84 and has the ability to block the viewing of the reels 18 by becoming opaque in the three regions 78. A housing 60 with a recessed surface 66 (see paragraph 57) is located behind the shutter device 76.

Unlike all of the pending claims, FIG. 8 of Muir fails to teach a diffusion layer that is disposed between the glass panel LCD monitor 68 and the backlighting panel 84. For this reason alone, the cited prior art cannot be used to render obvious the pending claims. It is noted that the Examiner's previous rejection of former claim 21 (Final Office Action, p. 5) simply states that

Muir teaches a diffusion layer without providing any support for the statement. That type of conclusory statement cannot be used to support a claim rejection, especially in case like this one in which it is clear that the Muir fails to teach the claim element.

Muir's deficiency in teaching this claim element regarding the "diffusion layer" may be somehow related to the use of the shutter device 76, which appears to be a critical part in Muir's display. The shutter device 76 is used for transmitting images of the reels 18 or blocking the images of the reels 18 by becoming opaque in the regions 78. See paragraphs 61-63. In other words, Muir uses a much different type of design for his display and that specific design has resulted in Muir failing to mention, teach or even suggest anything about "diffusion layer" between Muir's glass panel LCD monitor 68 and the backlighting panel 84.

In fact, several claims include other elements within the "front display device" that are also not disclosed, mentioned, or suggested by Muir. For example, claims 23, 24, 28, 35, 36 and 40 require a reflective layer that is located between the light guiding layer and the variable display device. In the Final Office Action dated December 7, 2010, it is noted that the Examiner's rejection of claim 23 (Final Office Action, p. 5) simply states that Muir teaches a reflective layer as part of the rear holder (presumably meaning the housing 60). Yet, the terms "reflect" or "reflection" appear nowhere in Muir, much less in a statement relative to the housing 60. Considering that the shutter device 76 would appear to be opaque except in the regions of its three openings 78 that selectively permit viewing of the three reels 18, it would not be possible for the recessed surface 66 of the housing 60 to even receive the light from the backlighting panel 84 so as to perform a reflecting function, which is likely the reason that the terms "reflect" or "reflection" appear nowhere in Muir.

Conclusion

It is the Applicant's belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Fees of \$810 for the RCE, \$220 for an independent claim, and \$156 for three dependent claims are being paid via the deposit account listed below upon submission of this response. It is believed that no other fees are due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Nixon Peabody LLP Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-000772USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

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